



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Week Ending April 10, 2011

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This report can be found on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/pa and click on "Pennsylvania Publications."

Very Poor Week for Field Work: Pennsylvania had an average of 1 day suitable for field work. Many counties were still experiencing problematic weather conditions this week whether it was rain or in some northern counties snow. In a few of the lower lying counties the weather broke for a couple days a welcomed change, which allowed some producers to get a day in the field. Primary field activities for the week included treating timothy fields for mites, some spring tillage, equipment repairs, top dressing wheat and grass, and seeding of alfalfa. Spring plowing is underway and is 7% complete, well behind the 31% last year and the five year average of 28%.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending April 10, 2011

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	0	42	58

Crop Progress: Tobacco beds are 50% planted, which is ahead of last year's 39%, and the average of 14%. Peaches are 29% pink, well behind last year's 84%, and slightly behind the average of 39%. Cherries are 47% in pink, below last year's 77%, but ahead of the average of 33%.

Crop Condition: State-wide winter wheat conditions are; 0% very poor, 3% poor, 24% fair, 67% good, and 6% excellent. Pasture conditions are; 16% very poor, 16% poor, 34% fair, 31% good and 3% excellent.

Nationwide as of April 3, 2011: Warmer-than-normal weather prevailed in most areas west of the Great Plains, but temperatures averaged more than 10°F below normal in parts of the Ohio Valley and Southeast. Precipitation was limited across much of the nation during the week, with most locations in the Corn Belt and Southwest receiving less than 0.1 inch. However, parts of western Washington and central Florida received at least 5 inches of rain.

Winter Wheat: Nationally, 37 percent of the 2011 winter wheat crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down 28 percentage points from this time last year and 10 points below the rating on November 28, 2010. As winter progressed, soil moisture availability throughout much of the central and southern Great Plains remained limited, causing condition ratings to decline in states such as Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. In Kansas, the largest winter wheat-producing state, the percentage of the crop rated very poor to poor increased from 25 to 34 percent between November 28 and April 3.

Sorghum: By April 3, nineteen percent of this year's sorghum crop was planted, 6 percentage points ahead of last year and 3 points ahead of the 5-year average. With 71 percent of the crop planted, progress was most advanced in Louisiana, where warm, sunny conditions throughout much of March provided ample time for producers to complete fieldwork.

Other Crops: Oat producers across the United States had seeded 28 percent of their crop by April 3, four percentage points behind last year and 2 points behind the 5-year average. Seeding was complete in Texas, where 35 percent of the crop was headed. Planting had yet to begin in Minnesota, the largest oat-producing state, where heavy winter snowfall and below average temperatures delayed the start of spring fieldwork.

Weather Data For Week Ending April 10, 2011

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - April 10, 2011					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	65	31	44	1	1.81	4	1.85	0.79	7	3	3	38
Franklin_AG	66	27	42	-1	2.75	5	2.77	1.64	6	0	0	25
Meadville-Port	62	30	43	2	2.28	6	2.31	1.21	7	0	0	27
Mercer	66	29	44	2	2.11	6	2.28	1.10	9	1	1	35
Springboro	62	29	42	-2	2.51	5	2.59	1.61	7	0	0	24
Warren	63	26	40	-2	2.52	5	2.53	1.40	6	0	0	20
North Central												
Bradford Region	57	26	37	-3	2.45	4	2.50	1.40	6	0	0	6
Oswayo	57	21	38	-4	2.64	5	2.74	1.74	7	0	0	11
Kane	56	22	37	-3	4.08	5	4.16	2.96	6	0	0	9
Laporte	57	27	39	-6	2.11	7	2.39	1.36	9	0	-2	8
Lock Haven	62	26	42	-3	2.18	5	2.39	1.39	7	3	1	25
Port Allegany	61	26	40	-2	2.14	5	2.26	1.26	7	0	0	15
Renovo	60	27	41	-4	2.98	5	3.12	2.12	7	1	-1	21
Ridgway	64	24	40	-2	2.84	5	2.96	1.86	8	0	0	20
Stevenson Dam	60	26	40	-1	3.09	4	3.23	2.13	6	0	0	16
Towanda	62	29	43	-2	1.55	5	1.71	0.81	7	4	2	23
Wellsboro	54	26	37	-3	2.39	5	2.51	1.81	6	0	0	6
Williamsport	63	27	45	-2	2.27	5	2.50	1.47	7	4	-5	42
Northeast												
Hawley	62	26	42	0	0.98	5	1.43	0.36	7	0	0	21
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	66	30	45	0	0.94	5	1.21	0.30	7	9	7	38
Susquehanna	60	28	42	3	1.36	4	1.59	0.42	6	0	0	19
West Central												
Butler	68	28	45	0	2.35	5	2.39	1.34	7	3	0	42
New Castle	67	28	45	3	1.79	3	1.80	0.80	4	2	2	44
Slippery Rock	63	27	45	3	2.10	4	2.10	1.04	4	0	0	42
Central												
Altoona/Blair	69	31	46	-1	1.37	6	1.41	0.35	8	7	-2	48
DuBois	68	26	42	-2	2.49	6	2.56	1.46	8	1	1	26
Lewistown	65	29	44	-4	1.69	4	1.86	0.96	6	3	-8	34
Middletown	73	37	49	1	1.29	5	1.65	0.65	7	12	-3	72
Prince Gallitzi	60	27	41	-3	2.21	4	2.41	1.01	5	0	0	18
Selinsgrove	62	29	44	-2	1.24	7	1.57	0.57	10	4	-4	31
State College	63	31	42	-3	1.85	4	1.91	0.94	5	1	-1	24
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	65	27	48	2	0.99	5	1.25	0.15	7	14	5	60
Lehighton	64	30	45	-2	0.94	5	1.31	0.31	7	4	-2	38
Matamoras	59	27	43	-3	1.16	5	1.54	0.29	7	0	-3	27
Mt_Pocono	60	28	42	3	0.98	5	1.24	-0.04	7	5	5	27
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	72	32	50	5	1.93	6	2.26	1.26	9	20	10	76
Indiana_PA	70	28	46	0	2.09	6	2.37	1.17	9	7	-2	51
Myersdale	76	28	42	-3	1.18	4	1.51	0.21	7	6	5	28
Mount Pleasant	73	29	46	4	1.72	4	2.10	0.78	7	7	7	48
Pittsburgh Intl	71	33	50	4	1.42	5	1.54	0.45	7	16	6	71
Connellsville	78	30	48	1	2.18	7	2.76	1.55	10	13	3	60
Waynesburg	75	27	47	2	2.13	4	2.55	1.41	7	6	-1	53
South Central												
Biglerville	79	32	48	-1	1.05	5	1.05	-0.05	5	10	-5	60
Everett	76	27	45	0	1.21	5	1.64	0.57	7	8	3	41
Hanover	80	30	48	-1	1.07	5	1.42	0.32	8	14	-1	59
Harrisburg_AP	71	33	49	0	1.32	5	1.67	0.67	7	11	-4	70
South Mountain	76	28	44	-2	1.35	4	1.41	0.35	6	8	1	40
York	81	34	51	3	1.22	5	1.55	0.36	7	20	5	81
Southeast												
Green Lane	73	32	48	2	1.19	5	1.51	0.35	7	10	3	61
Hamburg	65	31	46	2	0.81	5	1.14	-0.05	7	5	4	48
West_Chester	78	28	49	0	0.96	4	1.26	0.06	5	14	0	63
Lancaster	77	32	50	3	1.27	5	1.33	0.23	6	18	8	73
Neshaminy Falls	78	29	50	3	0.87	2	1.18	-0.12	4	23	13	80
New Holland	76	32	47	0	1.22	4	1.64	0.54	6	11	1	57
Philadelphia	79	35	52	4	0.84	4	1.06	-0.14	6	27	10	97
Philadelphia NE	78	35	52	3	0.95	4	1.23	0.03	6	25	8	92
Reading	74	35	50	5	1.16	4	1.43	0.23	6	19	13	81
Sellersville	74	29	47	1	1.02	5	1.24	0.08	6	12	5	54
Willow Grove	73	34	49	3	1.02	5	1.37	0.07	7	12	2	72

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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REPORTERS COMMENTS, By County

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A Behney

The soils in the county are not drying off too much due to getting moisture like every other day, or if we get some good drying days then it rains again. Not much acreage of oats has been seeded and producers are hoping to still get some more planted. Wheat and barley seeded last fall looks ok, but where fields have water laying in them the small grains do not look good. The producers are awaiting soil temperature and soil conditions to improve before planting of corn can be started. Apples are finished being pruned and peaches are also getting pruned and almost finished. Cherries are past the wet stage now which concerned producers due to cold temperatures here in end of March beginning of April and as time goes the growers will be able to tell how this may have affected their crop yield. Fruit crops are behind what they were last year this time. Hay is starting to grow and producers would like to top dress but field conditions are not permitting. Producers are finishing readying equipment for this planting season while the weather doesn't permit them to be in their fields. One day everything will break loose at one time and planting will be going full tilt.

BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier

Rain every few days is preventing field work from getting done. Some wheat has been top dressed and some Timothy fields have been treated for mites. It will be a few weeks before any corn gets in the ground.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little

Another week of cool wet conditions. While Sunday was a beautiful day, it was still too wet to begin plowing or planting crops.

CENTRE COUNTY, Tim Craul

Continued rain has delayed a lot of spring plowing which will delay spring planting for larger acreage farmers.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker

Soil conditions too wet for field work, received more than an inch of rainfall for the week.

CENTRE COUNTY, Tom Tanner

A few acres of spring tillage were done this past week.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Rom McCorkle (NRCS)

Wet and cold weather most of the week left producers wondering if they would ever get out into the fields. Weekend warm up was welcomed with thoughts of spring finally arriving. Activities this week included equipment repairs and general clean up. Fields are still saturated in most areas of the county.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr

Cool weather still continues to dominate, however signs of spring are near. Soil is still too wet for much field work with showers several times last week.

INDIANA COUNTY, David B. Overdorff

Still had too much rain last week, received over 1.50" of rain. Hopefully the weather will cooperate this time and we'll get some ground plowed for oats. Everyone have a safe week of farming.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Christopher Burkhart

Wet weather and cool temperatures have continued to slow spring field preparations. Wheat and grass are being topdressed with nitrogen and alfalfa seeding has started.

MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust

The weather never got in to the 50's until Saturday. Fields still need some warm windy days to dry up the soil and raise soil temperature. In 2010, the first part of April had temperatures in the 70's and 80's.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield

A few rainy days this week prevented most field work again this week. Some hay and wheat fields were topdressed but little field work has been done yet this year. A warmer week this week should help push the small grains and grasses.

POTTER COUNTY, Bill Waltman

We had 6 to 8 inches of snow last week that prevented any tillage and fieldwork.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer

Winter grains are doing well under the very wet conditions and cool temperatures. The alfalfa fields are beginning to green up; however, there are problems with chickweed in some areas. Pastures are too wet for cattle to be on. Most of the activities for the week were preparing equipment for spring seeding.

SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY, Willie Keeney

The pastures are turning green. Show manure spreading took place over the weekend on gravel ground.

TIOGA COUNTY, Pamela Barnes

The snow falls every other day in our county. Very little spring progress has been made with these conditions. The warm weather has not reached us yet. The cold mix with some sunshine has turned rye fields green but the tips are frost burnt. Soil is soaking up the moisture and is too wet to get too excited about spring field work.

TIOGA COUNTY, Sherri Butters

Still very wet conditions. We received rain off and on all last week. Temperatures should be into the 50s today which is great. Now if only we could see some sunshine and winds to start drying the soils.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr

Finally starting to see some grass growth. For at least a few days this week it was dry enough for some primary tillage, manure hauling, and fertilizer spreading.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending April 10, 2011

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	7	31	28
Tobacco beds, planted	50	39	14
Peaches, in pink	29	84	39
Cherries, in pink	47	77	33

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending April 10, 2011

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Wheat	0	3	24	67	6
Pasture	16	16	34	31	3

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